

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application, in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks and arguments, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-25 were originally presented for consideration in this application, with Claims 5, 6, 15-21, 24 and 25 having been temporarily withdrawn from consideration pursuant to applicants' February 6, 2006 provisional election. By the foregoing amendment Claims 1 and 3 have been revised, and the temporarily withdrawn Claims 5, 6, 15-21, 24 and 25 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, Claims 1-4, 7-14, 22 and 23 remain in this application for consideration and allowance.

Claims 1-4, 7-14, 22 and 23 currently stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by European reference '073. This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Via amended independent Claim 1, each of the rejected Claims 1-4, 7-14, 22 and 23 specifies a recess formed in the interior side surface of an exterior side wall extending forwardly from a rear end of a wear member, the side wall partially bounding a cavity of the wear member that extends forwardly through its rear end.

The recess is further specified as having a first end portion rearwardly opening outwardly through the rear end of the wear member, and a second end portion disposed forwardly of the first end portion of the recess and being transversely enlarged relative thereto in a direction parallel to the interior side surface of the exterior side wall, with the second end portion having a **forwardly facing abutment surface**.

Representatively, but not by way of limitation, in the present applicants' drawing FIGS. 1-3, 6 and 7, the wear member is the tooth point 14, the rear end of the wear member is the end 32, the cavity is the socket 34 partially bounded by an exterior side wall in an interior side surface of which the recess 40,36 is formed (see FIG. 3). The first end portion 40 of the recess rearwardly opens outwardly through the rear wear member end 32, and the second end portion 36 of the recess is disposed forwardly of the first recess end portion 40 and is disposed forwardly thereof. The second recess end portion 36 is transversely enlarged relative to the first recess end portion 40 (i.e., perpendicularly to the front-to-rear direction of the wear member) in a direction parallel to the interior wear member side wall in which the interior recess 40,36 is formed, and the second recess end portion has a **forwardly facing abutment surface** (representatively the abutment surface 80 shown in FIGS. 6 and 7).

In rejecting Claims 1-4, 7-14, 22 and 23 based on the European '073 reference, the Examiner states that:

Note Fig. 42 showing a second end portion 29 of the recess (unnumbered) being enlarged relative to a first end portion (unnumbered). Note Fig. 30 showing the circular curvature for the arcuate abutment surface 56, disc-shaped configuration 56 necessarily for the locking member and scalloped surface (unnumbered).

In this regard it should be noted that in FIG. 42 of the European '073 reference the (rectangular) front portion of the referenced FIG. 42 area is transversely **reduced** relative to the rear portion 29, instead of being transversely **enlarged** as required by the present applicants' Claims 1-4, 7-

14, 22 and 23, and no forward portion of this overall referenced FIG. 42 area has a **forwardly facing abutment surface** as required by these claims.

Moreover, the element 56 shown in FIG. 30 of the European '073 reference is an aperture formed in a rearwardly projecting lug 51 of the illustrated tooth point 49. In contrast to the recitations in the present applicants' Claims 1-4, 7-14, 22 and 23, the aperture 56 is not formed in a wear member side wall that partially bounds the tooth pocket, the aperture 56 does not have an end portion that rearwardly opens outwardly through the rear end of the tooth, the aperture 56 does not have a front portion transversely enlarged relative to a portion thereof that rearwardly opens outwardly through the rear end of the tooth, and the aperture 56 does not have a front end portion having a forwardly facing abutment surface thereon.

It is thus respectfully submitted that none of applicants' Claims 1-4, 7-14, 22 and 23 is anticipated by the European '073 reference currently being relied upon by the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing amendment, remarks and arguments, all of the claims currently pending in this application are now seen to be in a condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance of Claims 1-4, 7-14, 22 and 23 is therefore earnestly solicited.

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The Examiner is hereby requested to telephone the undersigned attorney of record at the indicated number if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the instant application.

Respectfully submitted,



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on May 2, 2006

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